



News From Districts 1 & 2

Numerous county and city roads around the region were covered by floodwaters after the new year began. District personnel went right to work monitoring flood levels, marking roads which were blocked by water, and providing regular road closing reports.

The Cave-In-Rock Ferry connecting Kentucky 91 in Crittenden County with Illinois Route One and Hardin County across the Ohio was closed.

The New Year's Weather Had Us on Our Toes!



Road crews also maintained variable message boards in the heavily

traveled area of U.S. 41 North at Henderson to warn motorists of deer crossing the roadway in the area of John James Audubon State Park. Floodwater beneath the twin bridges over the Ohio River forced deer that normally travel underneath the bridge to seek higher ground and cross U.S. 41 North near the bridge approach.

U.S. 41 Henderson Bypass Reopens to 4-Lane Traffic

The US-41 Bypass at Henderson was fully opened to traffic on January 7 for the first time since a major rebuild of the bypass started in March. This three mile project covers one of the region's major arteries connecting the Pennyryle Parkway, the Audubon Parkway and U.S. 60 at Henderson.

"We had originally planned to have the road reopened fully to traffic back in December, but the weather just didn't cooperate," said Resident Engineer Ricky Payne. A new polymer asphalt planned for the surface requires temperatures above 50 degrees Fahrenheit to be applied. This prompted the November decision to open the roadway to traffic in December on the base courses and delay finish paving until spring.

Safety has been a prime concern due to the extensive work required to rebuild 13 bridges and 14 ramps, along with a three-mile section of 4-lane roadway. According to District Two Branch Manager for Construction T.C. Chambers, area motorists continue to get high marks for their patience during almost ten months of driving through a maze of construction.



D1 crews work on the Smithland Levee during January flooding.



News From District Three

The kick-off for the US 31W Safety Corridor was held December 3, 2004 with a press conference in Bowling Green at the Medical Center Ambulance Center. Speakers for the event included Tony Young with FHWA, Rep. Rob Wilkey, KSP Captain Jeff Mayberry, Gary Madison with EMS, and Boyd Sigler and Greg Meredith with KYTC. Daryl Johnson and Dan Ware each spoke about how using their seatbelt helped them to survive a devastating crash.



Pictured Above: Boyd Sigler, Highway Safety Operations Manager; with panel of guest speakers in background

"Last year, 931 lives were lost on Kentucky's roadways with an economic cost of \$3,230,570,000" stated Greg Meredith, Chief District Engineer for KYTC District 3. Meredith then asked the crowd, "How many of these were due to driving impaired or unbuckled?"

In order to address some of these issues, a multidisciplinary safety team charged with increasing the safety along the US 31W Corridor from KY/TN state line to the Barren/Hart County Line has been formed in the District 3/BRADD region.

"Local law enforcement, emergency services, police and fire, Kentucky State Police, Drive Smart, KYTC and the BRADD are some of the partners involved in this initiative that covers four counties: Warren, Edmonson, Simpson and Barren," stated Meredith.

KYTC Highway Safety Operations Manager Boyd Sigler gave an overview of how the corridor projects began and why they are needed. Sigler stated, "The team will attack these issues in a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuous manner. The 4 E's (Engineering, Education, Emergency Response, & Enforcement) will be the framework for our efforts. The goal is to reduce fatalities by 15%, reduce injuries by 18%, decrease non-injury crashes by 20% and increase seatbelt usage to 72% from 2005 to 2008."

Kentucky State Police Captain Jeff Mayberry spoke about the upcoming traffic blitz for the 31W Corridor. Mayberry stated, "The blitz will be similar to what we did on I-65 a few years back. Speed trailers will be set up along the corridor for people to monitor their speed the week prior to the blitz. We want people to be aware of their speed and to slow down and travel the posted speed limit. During the week of December 13 to December 18, our entire team will be out in full force monitoring this area."

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The traffic blitz for US 31W resulted in a total of 881 citations being given. Three-hundred and sixty-two were cited for speeding, 124 for not wearing a seatbelt, five for improperly restrained children, 21 for driving on a suspended license and 52 for disregarding a traffic control device. Approximately 420 citations were given for other offenses.

Agencies participating in the blitz include: Kentucky State Police, Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement, Western Kentucky Police, Bowling Green Police, Warren County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police, Simpson County Sheriff's Department, Barren County Sheriff's Department, Police Departments from Cave City and Park City as well as the Edmonson County Sheriff's Department. Special thanks to Captain Jeff Mayberry and Trooper Todd Holder for overseeing this segment of the initiative.



December's activities also focused on educating the public about the safety initiative.

District 3 employees from four counties worked Christmas parades as the Drive Smart Bear and the Crash Test Dummies. State trucks were decorated with lights and banners that read

"Buckle Up (county name)."

Special thanks to Keith Mueller, Martin Milam, Paul Kelley, Kim Grace, Kent Charlton, Bobby Mayes, Davey Vincent, Michael Jagers, Aaron Vincent, Christopher Logsdon, James Wilson, Joe Jolly, Scott Taylor, Dixie Renfro, Sue Bell and Chad Martin.



Other activities: Drive Smart Bear attended the Teddy Bear Tea; Jeff Moore and Tim Elmore spoke to Ms. Melissa Vincent's classroom at South Edmonson about pedestrian and bike safety as well as how to be safe when you're riding in a vehicle; Jeff Moore and Mark Mudd attended Park City Elementary with the same program; Drive Smart Bear and Crash Test Dummies attended the Fountain Square

Lights Up event in downtown Bowling Green; and a seatbelt check at Franklin-Simpson High School. A Ghost Out had been planned for Caverna High School but due to some unfortunate events, it has been postponed until this spring.



News From District Four

2004 Roads Scholar/Master Awards

The 2004 Roads Scholar/Masters Award luncheon was held at Barren River State Park in November. Two employees from District Four were presented with their certification.

Pictured left to right: Chuck Knowles, Deputy State Highway Engineer; Mary Jo Floyd, Training Coordinator; Lloyd Lewis, Washington County Crew; Hardy Jagers, Hardin County Crew; Rusty Wallace, Operations, Branch Manager; Gary Raymer, Chief District Engineer.



The Roads Scholar training program provides local and state government employees with basic information on maintaining local streets and roads. The Road Master training program is an additional level of training that provides a higher level of technical information and is targeted toward those individuals who want to become managers. Congratulations Lloyd and Hardy !!

2004 CHILI COOK-OFF WINNER

Larue County Maintenance facility took top honors at the first chili cook-off at the annual snow and ice meeting in November, 2004.

Debbie Thompson (right), chief chef for the crew, accepted the trophy and certificate from Rusty Wallace, Operations Branch Mgr.



Special Crew took second place with Tim Whelan as their top chef.



A total of 14 different pots of chili were submitted for judging. Each crew submitted a pot of chili and was tasted by a select group of judges from the district office. The cook-off was such a success; it will become an annual event at the snow and ice meeting.

BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY

Terry L. Alexander 25 years

GRAYSON COUNTY

Danny L. Constant 5 years
Charles B. Pierce 5 years
Douglas W. Pierce 5 years
Clint Drummond 25 years
Brenda C. Humphrey 35 years
Robert L. Logsdon 25 years

GREEN COUNTY

Terry Marr 30 years
Kelvin M. Ford 25 years

HARDIN COUNTY

Michael L. Cecil 5 years
Patrick W. Peters 5 years
Jamie W. Watkins 5 years
Hardy L. Jaggers 5 years

HART COUNTY

Steve A. Harris 5 years
Stuart L. Gentry 10 years

LARUE COUNTY

William V. Crawford 20 years
Elmer T. Despain 25 years
David C. Stiles 30 years

MARION COUNTY

Gerald A. Taylor 25 years

MEADE COUNTY

Tony A. Dean 5 years
David W. Raley 5 years
Robert E. Reesor 10 years
Willis E. Bosley 25 years
Jerry L. Shacklett 25 years

NELSON COUNTY

Donnie W. Byrd 5 years

TAYLOR COUNTY

Curtis Cox 10 years
David C. Riggins 10 years
James A. Robinson 30 years

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Rex A. Curtsinger 5 years
Robert L. Snider 5 years
Joseph P. Trigg 20 years

SPECIAL CREW

Gilbert G. Graham 5 years
Brian P. Hay 5 years
Kenton Riggs 16 years
Neal L. Warren 16 years
Paul E. Hayse 20 years
Gary L. Howard 25 years

TRAFFIC

Christopher E. Druen 5 years
Ronnie Underwood 5 years
Glenn J. Shoffner 20 years

D4 At Your Service



News From District Five

The warm and courteous voice you now hear when you call the District Five office belongs to Marylou Kincaid. She comes to us from Louisville Metro Property Valuation, and “Lou,” as she quickly has become known, began January 17 replacing Dionne Caples, who left us for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. An Owensboro native, Lou has been married since 2000, enjoys swimming and playing softball, and absolutely dotes on her 8 yr.old niece who lives across the river in Evansville, IN.



A big pat on the back to D5 personnel who spent their Christmas and New Year’s holidays battling the snow and ice. Crews applied over 10,000 tons of salt and plowed all priority routes in our eight-county district, covering just over 2,000 two-lane miles of roadway. Then it was on to trimming tree limbs obstructing the roadways and filling all the inevitable potholes. As the district thawed out and the rain moved in, the Ohio River and numerous creeks and streams began to rise, so it was on to marking and monitoring flooded roadways! Hats off, not only to D5 crew members, but to KYTC personnel across the state, for the rapid response to the rapidly changing weather conditions of Mother Nature!



When the swollen Knob Creek in Bullitt County receded after January’s flooding, a portion of KY-44 went with it. On January 27, the road re-opened with a reduced 35 mph speed limit after Maintenance Crew 015 completed temporary repairs.





News From District Six



Brian Huber and Tim King from the Kenton County Crew 059 filling potholes on KY 16.

The snow and ice much of our state experienced in late December led to some major potholes throughout our state routes. Much of the month of January had our crews out repairing and patching pavement. Pictured at left; Steve Coakley,



Tom Schomaker is the new acting Chief District Engineer for District 6. Tom definitely is no stranger to the folks here at District 6. He has been around the district for over 31 years in various positions. Prior to his new post, Tom was the Director of Maintenance for KYTC. He replaces David Jones who was promoted to Deputy State Highway Engineer for Project Development.

Greg Kruetzjans recently completed the two year leadership development program designed to build professional careers and develop leadership skills in the Transportation Cabinet employees. Greg joins Rob Hans and Kevin Rust who completed the Advanced Leadership Academy in December, 2003.



that week. District 6 was the first to have the signs erected. Overall there will be 100 along inter-states, parkways, and other major four-lane and multi-lane highways at an estimated cost of \$150,000. The "Move Over" signs will be placed at Kentucky's border crossings and other strategic locations on Kentucky's highways. Placing these signs is an added reminder to motorists to yield and use caution when they see an officer or EMS worker stopped on the side of the highway.

Right before the big snow and ice storm hit on Tuesday, December 21st, a crew installed the "Move Over" sign on southbound I-471 in Campbell county and one on southbound I-75. They were placed to let travelers know that under state law they are to yield or slow down for stopped law enforcement and emergency vehicles.

The law has been on the books since 2000, but no signs had ever been placed on Kentucky's highways until



News From District Eight

Bridge over Lake Cumberland closes in on completion

The new KY-90 truss bridge over Lake Cumberland will be receiving its four-lane bridge deck this spring. Steel erection is ongoing with American Bridge Company scheduled to complete the truss by the middle of February.

The new bridge is a 4-span structure with a steel truss for the two longer spans (~786' / each) spanning the lake, and two short approach spans. It utilizes a structural "weathering" steel, which requires no painting, and is 1712 feet in length. There is one pier (center) in the lake and two piers on the banks, an abutment on the west end, and an end bent on the east end; the main center pier is on two "perched" or elevated footings (54' x 54' x 20' each) on a grouping of large (12.5' diam.) drilled shafts (5 for each footing).

This project involves two separate contracts: the main pier was let as one contract and awarded to Massman Bridge, who began in November, 2001 and completed Phase I in May, 2004; the rest of the structure (Phase II) and the

roadway approaches was let at the end of 2002 and American Bridge Co. began in February, 2003. The last phase of roadway construction and demolition of existing bridge should both be completed by June 2006.





News From District Nine

Boyd County Workers Honored

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet on Dec. 23 honored two members of the Department of Highways Boyd County maintenance crew for their role in rescuing a man from a burning vehicle.

During a ceremony at the Boyd County Maintenance Facility, maintenance employees Paul Haywood and Mike Wurts were presented framed certificates by Allen Ravenscraft, the Transportation Cabinet's director of safety and health services, and Michael Goins, the cabinet's executive director of public affairs.

Haywood and Wurts were on their way to a job site on Sept. 1, 2004, when they came upon an accident on Ky. 3.

The two men assisted in pulling Lewis Pinder, 21, of Louisa, from his burning pick-up truck just before the cab was engulfed in flames.

The Transportation Cabinet also prepared certificates for Rick Bryant of Rush and his brother, Scott Bryant of Manchester, who were also involved in Pinder's rescue.

"They saved this man's life," Goins said. Haywood has worked with the Boyd County maintenance crew for nearly 11 years, and Wurts for 14 years.



Pictured from left: Allen Ravenscraft, Mike Wurts, Paul Haywood, and Michael Goins

Maintenance crew improves safety on stretch of Ky. 519

District Nine has nearly completed work to improve safety along a curvy section of Ky. 519 in southern Rowan County. The state highway crew and workers from Hinkle Construction Co. have increased the cross-slope of a curve on Ky. 519, just north of the Ky. 801 intersection. Workers are also resurfacing and re-striping the section of road and improving the shoulder. The work is being done on a section of Ky. 519 that has had a significant number of accidents.

"We strive to provide a safe and reliable transportation system for all Kentuckians, and we believe this maintenance effort was a way that we could address the public's safety concerns in the short term, until improvements can be made to widen that section of Ky. 519," said Katrina Bradley, chief district engineer for District Nine.



ABOVE: District Nine Maintenance Engineer Barry Fryman (back turned) looks on as workers improve super-elevation and resurface a curvy section of Ky. 519 in southern Rowan County.



RIGHT: Vehicles maneuver a curve on Ky. 519 shortly after preliminary reshouldering work was done.

WORDS OF PRAISE**Letter commends work**

A District Nine crew recently received kudos for a job well done in Fleming County. On Nov. 16, Butch Bowman — whose father-in-law owns a farm in Hillsboro — wrote a letter to D-9 Chief District Engineer Katrina Bradley, commending the crew for correcting a drainage problem that was apparently flooding a barn and part of the farm.

“These men are some of the most professional and diligent state employees I have ever had the pleasure of meeting,” Bowman wrote.

Bowman noted that the workers not only fixed the drainage/flooding problem, but they also took time to clean out a ditch to further improve drainage. He specifically commended Shane Ramey, David Pepper, Wayne Brown, Jamie Tumey, James Endicott, Norman Smoot, James Morgan and Mike Sapp.

Bowman said as he and his father-in-law

watched and talked to the D-9 crew, “we both noticed how much pride and determination they took in completing their task. From the supervisor, truck driver, backhoe operator and flagmen, they all did a great job — each being sure that his job was completed, checked and done as if they were doing it at their own property instead of ours.”

“These men are some of the most professional and diligent state employees I have ever had the pleasure of meeting.”

— **Butch Bowman**

Bowman said several neighbors commented on how professional, careful and courteous the crew was as well.

“For those of us in Hillsboro that had the pleasure to not only benefit from this but from seeing it done and results of that job, again we want to say thank you,” Bowman wrote. “... I sincerely hope that if I ever have the need for this to happen again that these men be the ones that again show up to take care of the problem.”

WE’VE GOT TEAM SPIRIT!**D-9 KECC campaign garners state award for high enthusiasm**

Hats off to the employees of District Nine! The district received an Honorable Mention for 2004 Most Spirited Campaign from the Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign (KECC). The honor was announced at the 2004 KECC Victory Celebration on Nov. 29.

Most Spirited Campaign recognition is presented to the offices or facilities that demonstrate the most enthusiasm and spirit in running their KECC campaign, regardless of amount raised.

The Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign (KECC), established in 1993,

is a unique opportunity for Kentucky state employees to donate to the charity of their choice through the convenience of payroll deduction. Governor Ernie Fletcher endorses the KECC. The KECC is supported and planned each year by state employees, the participating charities and the Personnel Cabinet.

Charities supported by the KECC include the Christian Appalachian Project, Community Health Charities of Kentucky, Easter Seals Kentucky, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, United Ways in Kentucky and WHAS Crusade for Children. Thanks to your generosity last year, the campaign raised over \$1.19 million to help those in need.





News From District Ten

District 10 Employees Participate in Blood Drive

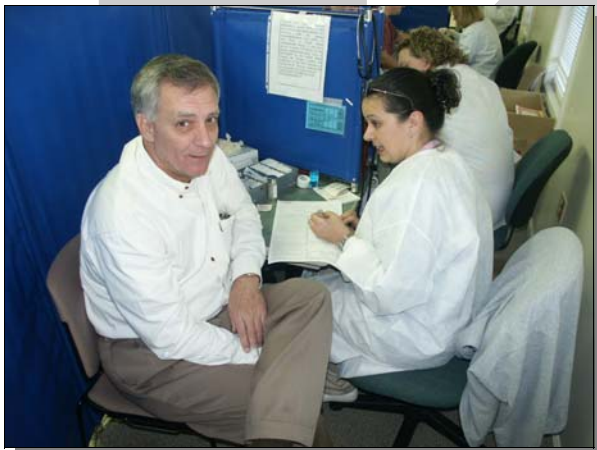
Employees from the Department of Highways District 10 recently gave of themselves by participating in a blood drive sponsored by the Central Kentucky Blood Center.

The drive at the district office in Jackson attracted 42 donors, and the CKBC collected 39 units of blood during the drive which lasted from 8 a.m. until noon.

"This is one of the best non-school drives we have in eastern Kentucky," said Russ Cassady of the CKBC's Pikeville office. "District 10 is always a solid contributor to ensuring a supply of

blood for central and eastern Kentucky, and we are very appreciative of their support."

"Donating blood is one of the types of community volunteerism that Governor Fletcher and Secretary Bailey actively encourage our employees to become involved in," said Samuel H. Beverage, chief district engineer in District 10 at the time of the blood drive. "The Commonwealth of Kentucky has always supported blood drives at various state agencies and we at District 10 are pleased to take part in these efforts. I am proud of all our employees who came to the district office to give blood. These efforts may help save someone's life in our region."



Ron Easter, Drive Smart coordinator for District 10, filled out paperwork and prepared for the fall blood drive sponsored by Central Kentucky Blood Center and held at District 10's Jackson office.

Employees Receive Training In Use of State Library

On Tuesday, Nov. 9, nine District 10 employees took part in state Libraries and Archives training offered by Nancy Houseal, public information officer for the Department of Libraries and Archives.

Participants learned of the services offered by KDLA, received a packet of information, and got library cards giving them access to the full range of services offered by the state library in Frankfort.

Participating were: Barry Evans, Corbett Caudill, Aric Scaggs and Jamie Duff, Design; Lori Hogg, Right of Way; Della Dunn, switchboard operator; Sue Patrick, Magoffin County Maintenance; Jerri Meadows, Powell County Maintenance; and H.B. Elkins, public information officer.



District 10 installs 'Buckle Up' signs at schools in corridor counties



On Dec. 3, District 10 erected signs on the grounds of three high schools in Perry County reminding drivers to buckle up. As part of the Drive Smart program and in conjunction with the Corridor Safety program in District 10, these reminder signs were placed at Hazard, Perry County Central and Buckhorn High Schools. The goal is to encourage students, parents and school employees to use their seat belts. Local officials and school personnel were invited to help unveil the signs at each of the three locations. Working with District 10's Drive Smart program, the Kentucky River Area Development District surveyed student seat belt usage at each school. The results showed seat belt usage rates of 52.1 percent at Hazard High, 41 percent at Perry County Central High, and 39 percent at Buckhorn High. A follow-up survey will be done in three months to determine if this program helps increase the number of students who "Drive Smart" and comply with state law by buckling up.

The Corridor Safety program has identified highways in each of Kentucky's 12 highway districts that have high rates of injury or fatality accidents. The designated corridor for District 10 is KY- 15, which is the main north-south route in Perry County. This route was also the location for a "safety blitz" earlier this fall, with portable radar trailers and variable message signs used to emphasize obeying the speed limit and other safe driving practices.

The signs, done in school colors for each school, were funded by the Division of Driver Safety and installed by District 10's sign crew.



News From District Eleven

US 421 RIBBON CUTTING

On January 21, with temperatures hovering around freezing and a 21 gun salute by the Harlan County Honor Guard, Transportation Secretary Maxwell C. Bailey along with other state and local dignitaries gathered in Harlan County to celebrate the completion of four new sections of US 421. The \$60.5 million 11 mile section, from Grays Knob to Barn Branch, with 12 foot traffic lanes and 10 foot paved shoulders as well as truck lanes on steep incline areas will provide a much safer route for motorists. The new sections provide a more direct route for everyone traveling US 421, creating a faster and safer link between Southeastern Kentucky and Southwestern Virginia, as well as bringing business and job opportunities to this area of Eastern Kentucky.



L to R: CDE Greene Keith, Magistrates Jim Roark & Paul Caldwell, Rep. Tim Couch, Judge Exec. Joe Grieshop and Sec. Bailey.



News From District Twelve

Floyd County marine in Fallujah is son of KYTC maintenance superintendent

The family of Marine Cpl. Jonathan Tackett of Teaberry watch television news to see if they can catch a glimpse of their 21-year-old son, who was a member of the US forces that invaded Fallujah in November.

"That's usually the only way right now we know if he's okay or not," said his father, Glen Tackett a maintenance superintendent for KYTC's Highway District 12.

"We've seen him on CNN twice and a neighbor said he was on Fox, too. He's just on there for a few seconds, but we know it's him. We've taken digital photos off the television, so we can be sure. The quality isn't the best, but we know it's him and he's alive."

Jonathan is a member of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, 31st Expedi-

tionary Unit, Alpha Company. He is a machine gunner with three and a half years' service. "He's supposed to get out in April," his father said. "We've heard from him twice since the battles in Fallujah in November. So far he's okay, a few minor injuries, but he's okay."

He has two sisters, Renee Hinkle, who lives in Michigan, and Tera Tackett of Teaberry in Floyd County. His grandmother is Mearl Tackett of Teaberry. While they wait for Jonathan's next phone call, so does his girlfriend, Samantha Newsome. As a small comfort in the meantime, Glen

and his wife, Willa, who runs the family store, Tackett's Variety at Grethel, know that other people do care. "Betsy Layne High School is sending him a care package," Glen said. "And Old Hickory, which is one of my wife's suppliers at the store, fixed up a box of foot powder and cream, face cream, and things like that and sent it to her to send to Jonathan. He might not get it

for a while, but when he does, we know he'll appreciate it."

When his classmates at Betsy Layne High School were going through commencement in the spring of 2001, Jonathan was already a soldier. Instead of finishing with his class, he chose to get his GED and join the Marines. The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit is based in Okinawa. Jonathan has seen active duty in



Jonathan Tackett cleans his weapon during a quiet moment in Kuwait; the 21-year-old Floyd County native, a machine gunner, was in the midst of the battle to capture Fallujah from Sunni insurgents.

(Photo by Staff Sergeant J.D. Cress)

Seoul, South Korea; the Philippines; Kuwait; and now Iraq.

According to CNN, Fallujah was considered a rebel command-and-control center for the rest of Iraq, and a base for Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's terror network.

In April, Marines attacked Fallujah after four US private security contractors were killed and mutilated. The US-led forces pulled back and established a local Fallujah brigade to restore peace, but in the summer, that effort fell apart and insurgents solidified control in Fallujah, leading to the offensive this past November.

The United States and Iraqi forces secured the city on November 16, 2004. Cpl. Jonathan Tackett was one of the US Marines who made that happen. His family is proud.

"He's my youngest child and my only boy," Glen Tackett said. "We'd be proud of him no matter what he decided to do with his life, but it really makes you feel good to know that he is fighting for other people's freedom. We take so many things for granted that other people in the world don't have, like the right to go to church, the right to vote, the right to say whatever we want to about the government without fear of being arrested. Every human being should be treated with respect by their government, and that's what Jonathan is fighting for. We just pray he comes home safe -- and soon!"

Editor's note: Before this story went to print, on January 18, Jonathan got to call home to let his family know that he was leaving Fallujah on January 19 for El-Asad, to guard the Syrian border during security operations for the country's upcoming elections. He should leave Iraq on February 15 if his orders don't change.

Knott County preschoolers learn about snow removal



From infants to five-year-olds, the students at Caney Creek Elementary Preschool in Knott County saw their first snowplow up close on Thursday, January 13. Randy Combs and Ricky Smith of District 12's Knott County Maintenance Garage, drove one of their snowplows to the school at Pippa Passes in rural Knott County. The youngsters got to see rock salt up close, take turns wearing orange safety vests and hard hats, got a good look at the cab of the specially outfitted dump truck, and found out how the spreader and blade work to get snow and ice removed from their roads. "This may be the start of a new way to educate folks," said Sara George, Information Officer. "We've had another request from a Head Start program in Letcher County and the crew there will take a snowplow to Mountain Heritage Head Start later this month. It only takes about half an hour, but the educational and good will benefits are immeasurable."



Traffic Crew keeps motorists on track with thousands of road signs

If you're driving on any state road in District 12 and see a sign that's bent or missing, or a lane that doesn't seem like the lines are quite right, don't just ignore it. Call Roger Tackett or Steve Roberts. Their crews are responsible for signs and striping in all seven counties of the district. They can't be everywhere at once, so they depend on their colleagues, family members, and neighbors to let them know if there's a problem.

And the reason they can't be everywhere at once is because they are usually busier than parents of quintuplets! For example, from June 1 through August 3, 2004, barely two months' time, the sign crew installed 882 posts, 492 inserts, and a whopping 2,271 signs. The roadside markers cover everything from littering fines to speed limits and stop signs to green signs that direct motorists to various communities.

These are the men who make sure that folks who drive state-maintained roads in District 12 have the correct information to get where they are going safely and as quickly as the law allows:

Roger Lee Tackett, a veteran of more than 29 years with state government. A Superintendent II,

Roger attended Virgie High School. He supervises personnel in both the striping



D-12's Striping Crew, from left, Steve Roberts, Roger Tackett, William Justice, Jamey Slone, Stevie Slone, and Melvin Wilson Jr.



Traffic & Operations Sign Crew, clockwise from left front, Steve Roberts, Randy Kender, Chris Kender, Patrick Yates, Roger Tackett, Robby Thompson, and Stevie Kender.

and sign crews. He and his wife, Debra Cheryl, have one daughter, 21-year-old Tiffany Leigh Tackett.

Steve Roberts, Superintendent I, has worked at District 12 for two decades. His father, the late Leo Roberts, was foreman at the Floyd County Maintenance Garage. He and his wife, Anita, have two sons, 17-year-old Adam and 11-year-old Andrew. They attend the Betsy Layne Church of Christ.

STRIPING CREW

William Justice started his career with D-12 in June 1997 as a janitor. An alumnus of Pikeville High School who earned his GED 10 years after leaving school, he joined the Traffic crew in 1999 as an Operator I. He is now an Operator II. When he's not helping the Sign Crew, he works with the Striping Crew (both crews work back and forth to help each other when necessary). His wife, Alice, works for the Cabinet for Families and Children. Alice attends the Old Regular Baptist Church; William attends the Church of Christ.

Jamey Slone, Equipment Operator II, lives at Hurricane of Kimper in Pike County. A graduate of Pike Central, he spent three years at the Shelby Maintenance Garage before joining the Traffic Crew. He and his wife, Heather, have one daughter, two-year-old Sidnee. He is the son of Shirley and Donald Slone and has a five-year-old brother, Dylan.

Stevie Slone, Jamey's first cousin, also lives at Hurricane of

Kimper. An Equipment Operator V, he's worked at District 12 for 11 years. A member of Johns Creek High School's last graduating class (1993), he is a Roads Scholar and Roads Master. Stevie and his wife, Lynne, have two children, eight-year-old April and six-year-old Steven Tyler.

Melvin Wilson Jr., the crew's only published author, is a graduate of Hargrave Military School in Chatam, Virginia, and Kentucky College of Business, where he earned a degree in Management Information Systems. He started with KYTC in 1987 in the Utilities Department, went to Traffic for five years, did a seven-year stint in Preconstruction's field crew, and came back to Traffic in 1999. Melvin lives in Pikeville with his wife, Rachelle. Since this story was written, Melvin has transferred to Permits as an acting inspector.

SIGN CREW

Daris Stevie Kender, Operator V, started more than eight years ago on the striping crew at Phelps. A Primitive Baptist preacher and assistant moderator at two churches, Stevie is a graduate of Phelps High School. He and his wife of 21 years, Penny, have three children, 20-year-old Christopher, 18-year-old Kayla, and eight-year-old Kelsie.

Randy Kender, Stevie's brother and an Equipment Operator IV, is coming upon his 13th anniversary with KYTC. A graduate of Phelps High School, Randy worked more than four years at the Phelps Maintenance Garage before transferring to the striping

crew. He and his wife, Jenny, married for 11 years, have one son, six-year-old Jared, a student at Phelps Elementary. He attends Peter Creek Primitive Baptist Church.

Chris Kender, Stevie's son and Randy's nephew, will soon celebrate his third anniversary with District 12, about a week before his third wedding anniversary. He and his wife, Delena, live at Phelps and are graduates of Phelps High School. They are members of the Peter Creek Primitive Baptist Church.

Robby Thompson actually makes almost all the signs that everyone else installs. An 18-year veteran with KYTC, Robby graduated from Mullins High School in 1972. He and his wife, Janet, who works at Wayne Supply, have three children, Paul Randall Hurley of Morristown, Tennessee; 21-year-old Whitney Thompson Hamilton; and 27-year-old Jody Thompson, KVE Region 10's canine officer. They also have three grandchildren and another one on the way. Robby is also a licensed child safety seat installation and inspection specialist.

Patrick "Toby" Yates, Operator I with almost three years' experience, is another D-12 legacy. His father, Gary Yates, retired earlier this year from District 12 after 31 years in Preconstruction/Design. His mother is Vonda Yates and his wife's name is Ashley.